

DeSoto News Flash

For the Week of August 17th
through August 24th, 2015



Public Hearing

Join us for the Public Hearings
Prior to Adoption of the
City of DeSoto 2015 Comprehensive Plan

**At The Planning & Zoning Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 7 pm or
At the City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 7 pm**

At the Jim Baugh Government Center
City Council Chambers
211 E. Pleasant Run Road

The City's Comprehensive Plan is a document that is used to guide land use and development and outlines a shared vision of what residents and policy makers want the community to become. It undergoes periodic revision to allow it to keep pace with the community. The presentation of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan at these Public Hearings, is the culmination of a year long project to gather public input through Steering Committee meetings and other public meetings incorporating this input into the final plan. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to capture a vision of what DeSoto can become and is a long-range statement of the City's public policy. The public is invited to attend these meetings prior to adoption of the plan by the DeSoto City Council on September 15, 2015.

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Race Relations - A Community Conversation This is the Discussion Topic for the Next DeSoto Dining and Dialogue Dinner Event

The DeSoto community offers beautiful homes, rolling hills, great neighborhoods and diverse people. However, like most American cities, DeSoto is at risk of succumbing to the cultural and racial divide that often separates us.

The DeSoto Dining and Dialogue (DDD) program was organized in 2004 as a means to have a community conversation about race, help neighbors get to know one another and foster friendships among residents. The program seeks to bring together a diverse group of individuals to discuss issues facing our community on a personal level. In fact, this program was a key reason why our City received the All-America City award in 2006.

DDD is a volunteer-run organization that provides individuals of all ages, who live or work in DeSoto, the opportunity to get to know one another while having dinner and discussing topics of community interest. These dinner events are held twice a year in public facilities or private homes around DeSoto. The discussion is led by a trained facilitator who guides participants through questions designed to elicit thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community.

On September 12, 2015, the DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program will host a special dinner event at 6:30 pm at the Seven Essential Elements Events Center located at 2012 N. Hampton Road. The discussion topic, "Race Relations - A Community Conversation" will focus on relations with our police department, faith community and school district. Representatives from these three areas will lead a targeted discussion on race relations around the country and how these interactions could impact DeSoto.

The public is invited to attend this free dinner event. However, you must register to attend at www.desotodd.org or by calling Kathy Jones at 972.230.9648.

The DeSoto Dining and Dialogue program would like to offer a special thank you to Seven Essential Elements Events Center for hosting the dinner at their beautiful facility. Make plans now to be a part of this important event for the DeSoto Community.

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The DeSoto Arts Commission is Partnering with the Celebrating Life Foundation to Promote Breast Cancer Awareness with a Prayer Breakfast on September 5, 2015

For the last two years, the DeSoto Arts Commission has hosted a 5K Walk along the Roy Orr Trail to promote breast cancer awareness on the first Saturday in October. In 2014, we discovered that another group was also doing a similar event on the very same day in Cedar Hill. The Celebrating Life Foundation has been hosting the Sister to Sister Walk for the last 14 year to raise money for breast cancer awareness and treatment for women of color.

To kick off public registration for the 5K Walk & Roll and Fitness Festival taking place in Cedar Hill on October 3rd, the DeSoto Arts Commission is hosting a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, September 5, 2015 from 9 am to 11 am in the DeSoto Civic Center Blue Bonnet Rooms located at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road in DeSoto Town Center. We are reaching out to the faith community and to breast cancer survivors and their families to join us for this special morning of prayer and reflection. There is no set cost for the breakfast but donations will be accepted at the door.

We are pleased to have as our special guest speaker, Karla Antoinette Baptiste, author of *Dig In Your Heels*, featured in the October edition of O Magazine. Karla was first diagnosed with stage three breast cancer at the age of 34. Her breast cancer returned in 2014 metastasizing to her spine making it stage four. However, as of February 2015, she is cancer-free again. Karla is an ambassador for the Stanford Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program which aims to reduce breast cancer disparities among African American women and will share her story with us.

The Golden Voices Choir from the DeSoto Senior Activity Center will perform during the Prayer Breakfast. Ms. Pamela Dawson, Choral Director for DeSoto High School, will also provide special musical performance on her harp.

Ovarian cancer survivor, Prophetess Sharonlyn Clay, will lead the gathering in prayers intended to provide hope for the fighters, peace for the survivors and prayers for the taken.

The public is cordially invited to attend this special event in the DeSoto community. Please register your attendance by calling 972-230-9648 or by email to kathy.jones@desototexas.gov. no later than September 1,



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NOTICE OF 2015 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR CITY OF DESOTO

A tax rate of \$0.749900 per \$100 valuation has been proposed for adoption by the governing body of City of DeSoto. This rate exceeds the lower of the effective or rollback tax rate, and state law requires that two public hearings be held by the governing body before adopting the proposed tax rate.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.749900 per \$100
PRECEDING YEAR'S TAX RATE	\$0.757400 per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	\$0.730232 per \$100
ROLLBACK TAX RATE	\$0.763194 per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of DeSoto from the same properties in both the 2014 tax year and the 2015 tax year.

The rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of DeSoto may adopt before voters are entitled to petition for an election to limit the rate that may be approved to the rollback rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS
FOLLOWS:

$$\text{property tax amount} = (\text{rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

John R. Ames, PCC, CTA
Dallas County Tax Assessor/Collector
214-653-7811
TNTHELP@dallascounty.org
<http://www.ci.desoto.tx.us/>

You are urged to attend and express your views at the following public hearings on the proposed tax rate:

First Hearing: August 18, 2015 at 7:00 pm at 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto, TX.

Second Hearing: September 1, 2015 at 7:00 pm at 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto, TX.

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DeSoto Public Library Helps Make Lives Better!



DeSoto Public Library customers have access to the Learning Express/Learnatest Library. The Learning Express Library offers access to study exams for professions and education, study skills, job hunting and career tools.

- ♦ **Computer Skills** — watch video tutorials to learn computer and Internet basics, etc.
- ♦ **Job and Career Accelerator** — explore careers, search for jobs, create resumes and cover letters, etc.
- ♦ **Adult Learning Center** — improve skills in math, reading, writing and citizenship.
- ♦ **Career Center** — prepare for career exams (allied health professions, military, real estate, police, EMT, CDL, etc.) and improve workplace skills, etc.
- ♦ **School Center** — prepare elementary, middle school, and high school students to take tests, get help for assignments, and boost core subject skills.
- ♦ **Resources in Spanish** — find resources for adults in Spanish.
- ♦ **College Center** — strengthen academic skills, prepare for placement tests and graduate school entrance exams.
- ♦ **High School Equivalency** — prepare for the GED, HiSET, and TASC tests.

Learning Express/Learnatest is easy and free
(DeSoto Public Library pays the fee).

Ligon to the library's webpage: www.desototexas.gov/library. Click on the purple "Research Database" button and then click on the Texashare or Texas State Library Databases. To use the databases on a computer outside the library, call the library's Information Desk at 972.230.9661 for the login and password. Find Learning Express/Learnatest on the list of databases and set up an account using your email address and a password you create.

You're all set to explore all the database can offer to help you achieve more at school, at work and at home.



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Join us for an exciting series celebrating DeSoto's diverse taste in music, alternating each week from classical to jazz. There's something for everyone!



Baya Kakouberi



Felix Slovacek, clarinet

BLUE CANDLELIGHT
MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS

**uptown
downtown**
desoto
concert series



W.T. Greer



**SUNDAYS at 3:00 PM BEGINNING
September 13th**
DeSoto Corner Theater
211 East Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto
Tickets at ArtsDeSoto.com

Demarre McGille, Flute
Principal, Dallas Symphony Orchestra





Kate Cooper, Avant Chamber Ballet

**uptown
downtown**
desoto
concert series

**concert
dates**

Sept. 13th	Avant Chamber Ballet [Katie Cooper + David Cooper]
Sept. 20th	Jazz w. W.T. Greer, III
Sept. 27th	Demarre McGille, flute + Steven Harlos, piano
Oct. 4th	Open Classics [classical music reimagined as jazz]
Oct. 11th	Czech Virtuoso duo, Felix Slovacek Jr., clarinet + Viacheslav Grokhovski Fr. piano
Oct. 18th	Big Band Jazz w. Matt Tolentino
Oct. 25th	Gary Levinson, violin + Baya Kakouberi, piano

concerts
Every Sunday
at 3:00 PM

artsdesoto.com

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DeSoto Library Presents

Meet the Author

Local Author

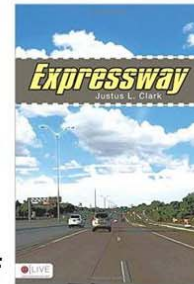
Justus Clark

What: Book Signing &
Book Sale

When: Saturday,
August 29, 2015
1pm—3pm

Where: DeSoto Public
Library Lobby

All are invited to meet
Justus Clark, poet,
and author of
Expressway,
a book of poetry.
Justus is a native of
Dallas, Texas, and
he began writing
poetry at the age of
eight.



A seventh-grade honor student at A.W. Brown Leadership Academy, Justus believes that it is wonderful to use your imagination. His favorite poets are Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes. Justus loves reading, writing, music, and swimming. His life experiences and rap music influence his writing. He desires to send a message to all young people. He believes that expressing your thoughts and feelings is good for your health and soul. Justus wants to become a marine biologist and writer.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and autographing



For more information, please call the library at 972.230.9661

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It is estimated that 54% of veterans are not receiving the benefits they have earned through service to our country. DeSoto Mayor, Carl O. Sherman, Sr. invites all soldiers currently serving and veterans of the U.S. Military and their families to a special event honoring their service. Vet Fest has been designed to honor and celebrate their service to our country and help them access the benefits they are entitled to receive as veterans. We also want to have some fun! Here is the schedule:

9 am - Appreciation Ceremony in DeSoto City Hall featuring comments by
keynote speaker, The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U. S. Congress

10 am - Vet Fest begins on the plaza and
outdoor amphitheater at DeSoto Town Center with:

- Mobile Unit from the Veterans Administration that will assist veterans in enrolling for benefits and filing claims, provide services for homeless vets, provide information on suicide prevention and much more
- Representatives from the Texas Workforce Commission and local businesses will provide information on employment opportunities for veterans
- Information booth with local business who provide special services or discounts for veterans
- Children's activities
- Food, fun and free entertainment

Applications are currently being accepted for vendors or businesses who would like to have a booth to provide information on employment or services to veterans and their families including children. We are also looking for food vendors. To request a vendor application or for more information on this free event, please call 972-230-9648.

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825 W. WINTERGREEN ROAD - DESOTO, TEXAS 75115



REGISTRATION
7:30 AM

SHOTGUN START
9:00 AM

LUNCH & AWARDS
1:30 PM

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Mosquito Dunks Are Available at City Hall

The City of DeSoto is partnering with the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department to address the problem of treating the breeding sites of mosquitos that may carry the West Nile Virus. Dallas County HHS has provided the City with an ample supply of mosquito dunks to distribute to residents. DeSoto residents can pick up these “dunks”, free of charge, at the City of DeSoto Action Center, located in Jim Baugh Government Center at 211 E. Pleasant Run Road. Residents will receive a pack of two per person, while supplies last.

These mosquito dunks float on the surface of water and will keep working for 30 days or longer. While floating, they release long-term mosquito larvacide at the water’s surface where it is eaten by growing mosquito larvae. One dunk can treat up to 100 sq. ft. of stagnant water. Mosquitos that carry WNV breed in places where stagnant water accumulates such as drainage ditches, stagnant swimming pools, bird baths, plant containers and old tires. Contact the DeSoto Environmental Health Specialist if you have WNV questions at 972.230.9600, or visit the DCHHS website at: <http://www.dallascounty.org/departments/hhs/home.html>.

